

Serial No. 10/617,997
60130-1627; 02MRA0559

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An axle housing assembly comprising:
a housing;
a shaft supported for rotation within said housing; and
a web member within said housing defining a lubricant containment chamber within a portion of said housing, said web member defining an opening through which said shaft extends, wherein said web member and said opening surrounds said shaft.
2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, including a drive assembly within said lubricant containment chamber.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The assembly of ~~claim 3~~claim 1, wherein said web member includes a shaft seal disposed within said opening and about said shaft for preventing lubricant leakage past said web member.
5. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, including at least two lubricant containment chambers within said housing.
6. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 5, wherein said at least two lubricant containment chambers are disposed at distal ends of said housing.
7. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 5, including at least two of said web members defining said at least two lubricant chambers, and a middle section of said housing sealed between said at least two web members at each end of said housing, said middle section not containing having less lubricant than said at least two lubricant containment chambers.

Serial No. 10/617,997
60130-1627; 02MRA0559

8. (Currently amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said ~~axle assembly~~ shaft rotates about a first axis and a wheel hub driven by said shaft rotates about a second axis spaced apart from said first axis.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said ~~web member forms a~~ lubricant containment chamber is disposed ~~cavity~~ around a drive assembly.

11. (Currently Amended) An axle housing assembly comprising:
a housing defining an internal chamber;
a shaft supported for rotation within said housing; and
a at least two web members member disposed within said chamber restricting flow of a lubricant to a two lubricant chambers disposed at distal ends of said housing, wherein said housing includes a middle section sealed between said at least two web members at each of said distal ends of said housing such that said middle section has less lubricant than said at least two lubricant chambers portion of said chamber, and
a shaft seal cooperating with said shaft and each of said web member for preventing lubricant from passing out of said two lubricant chambers.

12. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 11, including a drive mechanism disposed within one of said at least two lubricant chambers ~~chamber containing lubricant.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 11, wherein said shaft extends through an opening within each of said at least two web members and said openings and said web members surrounds said shaft. ~~member.~~

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein said web members extends completely between inner walls of said housing.

Serial No. 10/617,997
60130-1627; 02MRA0559

17. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said web member extends completely between inner walls of said housing.

18. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein lubricant within said lubricant chamber is at a level vertically above said shaft.

19. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein lubricant within said lubricant chamber is at a level vertically above said shaft.